

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM MUNICIPAL COURT



The mission of the Birmingham Municipal Court is to serve as the judicial branch of the city that processes and adjudicates all non-felony violations occurring within the City's police jurisdiction in a fair, accessible, and timely manner. The Birmingham Municipal Court is truly the biggest and busiest court in Alabama. We are here to serve this great City of Birmingham.

*WHERE
ACCOUNTABILITY
MEETS
COMPASSION*

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Traffic Court

Pursuant to Birmingham City Code Sections 8-3-8 and 8-3-10 certain minor traffic and misdemeanor offenses and parking violations may be paid without making a court appearance. See the Schedule of Fines for a listing of these offenses. These include traffic moving offenses, equipment offenses, general non-traffic offenses, public services offenses, and parking violations. Alabama State Code ([link opens a new window](#)) Title 32 provides statutes on the operation of motor vehicles in the State of Alabama. If you have received a traffic ticket and the offense for which you have been charged is on the fine schedule, a court appearance is not required. If you wish to go to court on the ticket, you must sign a protest bond. This can be done any day before your court date. You must come into the court office to sign the bond, and at that time you will be given a date and time to appear in court. This can be done Monday through Friday from 8:00AM to 4:45PM.

If the traffic or misdemeanor offense or parking violation for which you have been charged is not on the schedule of fines, then you must appear in court. Your court date is listed on the traffic or parking ticket. Be sure you are in court on your court date. Otherwise, forfeiture will be ordered by the judge and a writ of arrest will be issued for you.

SPECIALIZED COURTS

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The Court is authorized to hear misdemeanor criminal and traffic cases which involve offenses committed within its police jurisdiction. The Court operates in accordance with the Alabama State Code Title 12 Chapter 14 and the Birmingham General City Code Chapter 8.

Drug Court is a judicially supervised court docket that handles the cases of nonviolent substance abusing offenders under the adult, juvenile, family and tribal justice systems. Drug courts operate under a specialized model in which the judiciary, prosecution, defense bar, probation, law enforcement, mental health, social service, and treatment communities work together to help non-violent offenders find restoration in recovery and become productive citizens. In the USA, there are currently over 2,140 drug courts representing all fifty states. In the UK, drug courts are currently being tested in various places. The Birmingham Municipal Drug Court began in February, 2009 and has graduated more than 100 participants. The average length of time in the program is 16-18 months.

Gun Court is designed to improve safety and enhance defendant's accountability. They emerged in the 1990's in response to growing violence in our cities. They offer the following benefits:

- Swift and consistent responses to illegal weapons possessions
 - Intensive monitoring to ensure offender compliance to court orders and a swift response to violators;
 - Judicial supervision of cases from arraignment through post-disposition when sentences include probation;
 - Court partnership with prosecutors, defense, probation, parole and other stakeholders.
- The Birmingham Gun Court began in February, 2009 and has had over 100 graduates. Less than 10% of graduates reoffend

The *Veteran's Treatment Court* operates on the same model as Drug Court and provides medical, substance abuse and mental health treatment, training and job placement services, as well as housing, transportation and other supportive services. Veterans are also provided with mentors: other Veteran volunteers who provide further support for the program participants. Upon completion of the VTC participants have their charges reduced or dismissed.

Domestic Violence Court is designed to address traditional problems of domestic violence, such as low reports, withdrawn charges, threats to victim, lack of defendant accountability, and high recidivism, by intense judicial scrutiny of the defendant and close cooperation between the judiciary and social services. A permanent judge works with the prosecution, assigned victim advocates, social services, and the defense to ensure physical separation between the victim and all forms of intimidation from the defendant or his/her family throughout the entirety of the judicial process. Additionally, a case manager ascertains victim needs and monitors cooperation by the defendant. Close collaboration with defense counsel verifies due process and protects the defendant's rights.